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UMMRA Info

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University of Minnesota, Morris Retirees' Association

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UMMRA INFO

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS RETIREES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER
VOLUME XI, NUMBER 2, FALL 2008

NEWS FROM THE OPENING CONVOCATION

Fall is beautiful and the academic year is underway.

You can tell that change is in the air, because we have a new Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Dean, Cheryl Contant. The Community Services Building is well on its way to becoming the new Gateway Center, and the annexes have moved over to the PE center. In the opening convocation, Chancellor Jacquie Johnson reported satisfying statistics about the incoming deposited students:

- The average ACT score is 25, the number of new freshmen in the upper 5% of their classes is 27%, and the number of freshmen in the top 10% is up 22%.

- There is an increase in the numbers of students of color (8%) applying and an increase in male applicants (42%).

The mix that makes up our student body profile is rich. It includes high school students participating through PSEO and College in the Schools, the Global Student Teaching and Internship Programs, international students, and on-line students through Gen Ed Web. In spite of the increase in applications and those offered admission, the number of deposited students remained about the same.

Jacquie provided these interesting data about our graduates, faculty and alumni:

- 57 % of our students participate in undergraduate research and 30 % study abroad.
- 25% go directly to graduate or professional school.
- One in five faculty is a Morse Award winner.
- Alumni giving is up 24% from FY 2007.

In the second part of her talk, she raised this question: *What does it mean for a liberal arts college to be green?* She noted that UMM is at the cutting edge in having green facilities, but we are behind in linking green with our curriculum and co-curricular activities. Now is the time to discuss how those links can be strengthened.

Karla Klinger, UMMRA Editor

CHANGES IN COMPUTER DIAL UP

UMM dial-up service is scheduled to end on December 31.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Homecoming: UMM will be handing out give-aways on October 4 as part of a Green Energy Tour from 10:00-11:00 a.m. and near Big Cat Stadium before the 1:00 p.m. game. Call Carla Riley at 320-589-6394 to volunteer.

Readers Program: UMMRA members read to residents of West Wind Village through the Evergreen Reading program. Contact Cathy Kemble or Bernice Erdahl to volunteer.

2008-2009 DATES TO SAVE

UMMRA FALL LUNCHEON BUSINESS MEETING

When: Thursday, October 16, 2008, 11:45 a.m.

Where: Cozy Café, Cyrus. Order from the menu.

Speaker: Dorothy Rosemeier, Director, West Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership.

Topic: She will discuss Partnership projects, such as locally grown foods, renewable energy, and rural health care.

Other quarterly meetings are currently scheduled for February 19 and April 16.

First Thursday Casual Luncheons

September 4, Noon. Marty Kroening's farm near Morris.

October 2, Noon. Terrace Café in Terrace. Tour of the mill and the Barsness Cemetery will follow lunch.

November 6, 11:30 a.m. Whiskey Creek. Alexandria.

December 4, 6 - 8 p.m. Holiday Party. Common Cup, Morris. Order from the menu. Bring a wrapped white elephant gift. UMMRA will provide dessert.

January 8, Noon. Chokio Café, Chokio.

For rides or more information, contact Mary Ann Scharf at <mscharf@dishmail.net> or phone, 589-4688.

Learning Unlimited

Programs are held at the Senior Center in Morris.

September 10: Beyond Biomass – A Highway to the Biofuture. Abdullah Jaradat, 1:00 p.m.

October 8: Vicente Cabrera Funes: Teacher and Novelist. will discuss how writing has made him what he is. 1:00 p.m.

November 12: National Issues Forum III: Preparing Today's Kids for Tomorrow's Jobs. An inter-generational forum. Time and location TBA.

December 10: Biblical Archaeology. Archeological evidence for civilizations, sites and people mentioned in the Old and New Testaments. Laird Barber. 1:00 p.m.

A Special Course on Life Reflections

Seniors again are invited to participate in the UMM class "Adulthood and Aging" to be taught at UMM by Professor Jacqueline Greenwood-Julien. Five seminars on aging will be held beginning on October 27 for five Mondays, from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. Participating seniors may also choose to work with one or two UMM students on a project reflecting their personal histories. Transportation from the Senior Center and free parking are provided. Contact Wendy Hyatt at 589-6276 for information or to register.

Silver Sneakers

Check out the Regional Fitness Center's *Silver Sneakers* programs geared to seniors: *Yoga Stretch*, MW from 9:15-10 a.m., *Muscular Strength and Range of Movement*, TTh from 9:15-10 a.m., and *Silver Splash*, MW from 8:15-9:00 a.m. Call Sandy Grove at (320)-589-6864 for information

NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Hello UMMRA members,
We had a great kick-off potluck at the Kroening Farm in September. Good to see so many of you there!
The October First Thursday Luncheon will be at Terrace Cafe and Mill south of Glenwood on Hwy 104. We'll stop at the Barsness Family Cemetery on the way home. Given the price of gas, we're strongly encouraging car-pooling and will meet at the Federated Church Parking Lot in Morris at 11:10 a.m. The Fall Business Meeting will be held on Thursday, Oct. 16, at the Cozy Cafe in Cyrus at 11:45. This is how the work of UMMRA gets done. Bring your suggestions and ideas to stimulate UMMRA. An update on the upcoming UMMRA web-site will be shared. I'd also like to invite you to a discussion of financial considerations by Don Benson, a seasoned vice president of Thrivent Financial of Minneapolis. It will be held on Monday, October 6, at 1:00 p.m. at the Morris Senior Center. There's nothing to buy - just a chance to gain more understanding of the economic situation we are in.
Autumn is a rich season for stimulating activities. Volunteer for the reading program or for homecoming. In addition to the newspapers and UMM notices, check out the Learning Unlimited Newsletter, the widely distributed Senior Perspective newspaper, and have your name added to the Prairie Renaissance Cultural Alliance email list for area cultural events. I have participated in the "Adult and Aging" seminars, described above, twice. Silver Sneakers is just the cure to get your bod out of the easy chair and enjoy Yoga Stretch to keep up your strength and agility. I find it especially good on gray mornings to get myself jump-started and in a positive frame of mind. Hope to see you at some of the offerings mentioned.
Mary Ann Scharf, UMMRA President*

BITS AND PIECES

Laird Barber, a graduate of Williams College in Williamstown, Maryland, attended his 60th college reunion this summer. He is traveling to Crete and Cypress this month to enjoy their historical richness.

Phyllis Gausman was re-elected unanimously to head Learning Unlimited for another year.

Bernice Erdahl celebrated her 65th anniversary of graduation from the West Central School of Agriculture. Bernice also participated with **Joanne Hagstrom** and **Mary Ann Scharf** in the tour of the Wadsworth Trail sponsored by the Stevens County Historical Society.

Chuck Grussing performed with the Kiwanis Quartet following the talent show at East Side Park this summer.

Sen and Helen Fan were in Morris on August 16. **Pat Kahng** organized a get-together at the Prairie Inn. Sen and Helen live near San Jose. Their son Bob is in Minneapolis.

Pearl Johnson celebrated her 90th birthday with a community party held at her daughter's farm June 28.

Eric Klinger's biography has been selected to be in the 2009 edition of *Who's Who in America*. Eric also participated in July in three symposia at the International Congress of Psychology in Berlin and was a research consultant to colleagues in the Czech Republic.

Dwight and Jeanne Purdy report to friends that they weathered the recent hurricanes without much damage. Their generator broke down, but they were able to borrow one to run their air conditioner and freezer.

Sam and Nancy Schuman are travelling in Australia this fall.

In October, **Anne Uehling** will take a cruise from Quebec City to Boston via Newfoundland, Prince Edward's Island, Nova Scotia and Bar Harbor, Maine.

Ted and Judith Underwood recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in the San Francisco Bay Area. They enjoy nearby relatives and old Berkeley friends, the arts, the beaches, travel, their cabin, and sports, including news of the Cougars. Son Mark lives in the Bay Area and daughter Tamara lives near New York City with husband and two daughters, ages 10 and 11. Judith substitute teaches. Ted is undergoing treatment for prostate cancer. Other news about retirees is kept in the UMMRA Office. Please send your news to the UMMRA President or Newsletter Editor.

UMM PAST AND PRESENT

Though this story is about alumni, it is also about the UMM many of us knew. The next issue again will feature retirees. When Dean Kalmoe '75 and Mary Martin '75 lived and studied at UMM, an entire dorm floor shared one phone mounted on the wall in the hall. Computers were virtually nonexistent. In contrast, their son, Ryan Kalmoe '08, used cell phones and sophisticated software. Mary and Dean have strong memories of *Louie's Lower Level*. Dean said, *I remember the blue cloud of haze and the camaraderie. It was a focal point of student activity on campus, and the professors came, too.* Mary noted, *That is something that has stayed the same - the close contact with faculty, being on first name basis with professors.* Mary worked with Eric Klinger on the Fantasy Project and with Ernie Kemble on his research on amygdala brain lesions. *I'll never forget drinking tea with Ernie in the psychology lab, Mary remembers. He'd use hot tap water to make tea, and he'd serve it in glass beakers.* Both Dean and Ryan served as Residential Life Advisors, and both worked one summer for Residential Life. But Dean's job became his most memorable summer memory. Arnie Anderson, master plasterer, was restoring the walls in Education with plaster. *My job was to haul wet plaster, buckets and buckets of wet*

plaster up those steps, hundreds of times. All three share a lasting impression of UMM, a deep sense of belonging to a special community. Dean, Mary and Ryan have established a bequest to fund a UMM scholarship. This article was adapted with permission from Profile Magazine.